

Wenham Board of Selectmen  
Joint Board Meeting  
Recreation Building  
June 29, 2005 ~ 6:30 PM

APPROVED BY  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
AT THEIR MEETING OF

July 26, 2005

Present: Tom Tanous, Chair; Don Pickard, Peter Hersee, Selectmen  
Also Present: Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Secretary

Pleasant Pond neighborhood Association Meeting

Mr. Tanous opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

After a brief introduction, Mr. Tanous identified the agenda. As a part of the discussion Mr. Tanous acknowledged the trauma of the recent fatal accident on Pleasant Street, and thanked those who responded.

Mr. Chelgren identified that Dan Lynch, DPW Superintendent and Police Deputy Chief Walsh were present for this discussion

Regina Baker, Chair of the Pleasant Pond Neighborhood Association, identified that this is a regular scheduled meeting of the PPNA and reviewed the agenda including discussion about the installation of a gate at the beach entrance after the boat ramp, parking for fishermen, and signage.

She went on to note the signage requested.

Ms. Baker also identified that they are requesting more police patrol in the area.

Mr. Lynch noted that a chain was put across the road to close the parking lot immediately and control the traffic that goes in and out of the area, but that a gate will be installed in July.

Mr. Chelgren spoke to the PPNA and said that the Selectmen are looking for input.

Ms. Baker responded that there is a lot of traffic on the weekends especially during the hot weather and at holiday times, such as the upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend.

One neighbor noted that 27 vehicles were counted on Sunday evening just between the hours of 6PM - 9PM.

Discussion followed about closing the parking lot for a few weeks to study the issue to make changes and improve the traffic situation.

It was the consensus of the group that the beach is closed.

Mr. Pickard voiced concerns that other Wenham Residents would not be able to access the beach area without parking.

One resident added that the Town needs to participate in sponsoring the beach opening and financing a lifeguard.

One resident asked that a sign be posted at the beginning of Pleasant Street that there is no parking for the Pleasant Pond Beach so cars won't drive all the way down Pleasant Street and have to find a place to turn around.

Mr. Tanous reiterated that the neighbors are asking that the parking lot be closed and that the Association has a future plan to open the beach.

Deputy Walsh spoke to the Association and noted that the WPD is committed to solving the problems in the area related to traffic. He thanked the neighbors for their support during this difficult time with the recent fatality.

He went on to say that the WPD has applied for a grant to increase police patrols in Wenham's public areas. He also offered that anyone who feels that they need counseling due to the recent accident can contact the WPD.

It was noted that access to the pond needs to be kept open for fishing.

One resident stated that parking for fishing needs to be identified specifically for this purpose.

Mr. Tanous reminded the group that the town took money from the State for improvements.

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Mr. Weaver added that the Town took the money in the 1950's to establish right of ways and that the town must provide access to the pond for the fishermen but that the beach is the property of the Town of Wenham.

Mr. Weaver does not believe that the town must provide parking for fishing but only access to the pond.

Mr. Chelgren identified that rules governing the beach are in the form of bylaws that need to be changed either by the BOS or Town Meeting, depending on the change.

Deputy Chief Walsh also said that animal control will be enforced this year.

The Association agreed to participate with the opening and closing of the chain gate so that the WPD is not solely responsible for ensuring the gate opening and closing.

Mr. Hersee moved that the BOS authorize the closing of the Pleasant Pond Beach parking lot from July 1, 2005 until July 18, 2005.

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

After a brief discussion it was determined that Mr. Lynch will put a sign up at the beginning of Pleasant Street that identifies that the beach parking lot is closed. It was confirmed that the parking lot will close July 1-18, 2005.

Mr. Chelgren will work with the DPW Superintendent on the signage and will post the information on the Town's web site.

At the July 12, 2005 meeting, the Association will discuss the hours that the gate will be open/closed.

Mr. Hersee offered to walk the area with the Association for the placement of signs.

The Association responded that they have a plan for signs that they will share with the BOS.

One resident requested a stop sign be posted at the corner of Woodbury and Pleasant Pond and someone else suggested speed controlling devices such as speed humps. Mr. Lynch responded that a few years ago residents did not want these used because of the noise associated with the humps.

The Association will discuss this option before coming back with a recommendation.

An orange cone placed in the road identifying a pedestrian crossing was also suggested as a way to slow traffic as was a painted center line.

In closing, Mr. Tanous identified that the Town is governed by State laws but will do what it can.

The Association noted that a neighborhood watch can be formed to assist the Police department in enforcing speed limits.

Mr. Hersee moved to recess for five minutes and it was unanimous to do so.

#### Planning Board

Present: Planning Board Members David Geikie; Gretchen R; Virginia Rogers; Stan Dodge

Win Dodge; Albi Dodge; Doug Hall

Steve Dodge, Windover, Betsy Hopkins, H/W land Trust

Mr. Tanous read a request from the Planning Board to discuss the Dodge property development, specifically the affordable units planned for the project.

He went on to refer to the 5 acres with 20 -22 units being built.

Mr. Geikie stated that since the PB is responsible for the Town's 10% of affordable units, they want to understand what the Town is proposing to do.

He went on to review the options the town has discussed as:

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- 1) Develop affordable housing units on-site as part of the project;
  - 2) Have developer construct affordable units off-site under terms acceptable to the town; and
  - 3) Have developer contribute a cash amount to the town for use in promoting affordable housing.
- If # 2 is chosen, one option is to promote the development of a larger number of units through a friendly comprehensive permit process.

Mr. Dodge responded that a couple acres are needed to include septic. He stated that he wants to bring options to the BOS and said that he is optimistic a suitable lot to build affordable housing can be found.

Mr. Tanous identified that Boulder Lane is the only other land that the Town owns that has the acreage to build the affordable housing needed.

Mr. Weaver noted that the Iron Rail property might be an option for the Town.

It was the consensus of the BOS that they are in favor of a "friendly" 40b project to be built by Windover Development.

Mr. Geikie went on to review the town bylaw identifying that the developer needs 7.5 acres to build the Sr. Housing as drafted but according to the agreement, only five acres will be developed, leaving another 5 acres of which 2.5 acres is owned by the H/W land Trust and the other 2.5 acres will go to Windover. The PB does not want Windover to build on that 2.5 acre parcel.

The PB is uncomfortable with this arrangement and wants Town Counsel to review this part of the agreement.

Mr. Geikie told the BOS that the Planning Board wants 7.5 acres to go back into an elder overlay district.

Lastly, Mr. Giekie noted that approximately 19 acres of land are available on Pleasant Street and many attempts have been made to develop this parcel but that the Planning Board will not give any waivers to this property which is near the Town wells.

He said that the person who owns the land has come forward to the PB and stated that she is interested in selling the development rights to the Town which will give the Town control over the use of this property.

He asked if there might be support from the BOS to proceed with buying development rights.

Mr. Tanous said that the CPA is the only place where there would be money for this. He went on to say that he is not in support of buying the developmental rights without owning the land.

The Selectmen told Mr. Giekie to bring it forward for consideration with more details, such as the cost of the buyout.

Planning Board member Gretchen Roorbach offered to put together the reasons why the Town needs to have control of this land because of the Town's water wells.

#### Annual Appointments (Continued)

Fire Department – Fire Chief Cal Perkins and Deputy Bob Blanchard were present.

Police Department – Police Deputy Chief Ken Walsh and Sergeant Jeff Toby were present.

Fire Chief Perkins stated that he is trying to provide the town with a transition plan for the Fire Department but that he is not prepared to make a recommendation for the Acting Captains position at this time. He went on to say that the primary function of this person is to coordinate the training programs and document the programing, which has been the most costly part of the department's budget. Chief Perkins explained that without the training documents, there is no way for the department to prove that the training was done.

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Chief Perkins added that there is a person in the department who understands the fire operation and the business aspect of the department such as budgeting and who is being considered.

He told the BOS that the Deputy Chief, Bob Blanchard, technically serves as an Assistant Chief and that his title should be changed. He added that Bob Blanchard will have the same stipend and pay.

He went on to say that a Lieutenant from the fire officers group can then be moved above the Captains position to fill the Deputy Chief's position. The Chief noted that this command structure is proper for this Town and the taxpayers are served in the right way.

Mr. Hersee questioned whether an independent consultant should be hired to review the Fire Department to assure that these appointments are in the best interest of the Department.

Chief Perkins identified that the badge Deputy Blanchard wears has four trumpets which indicates him as an Assistant Chief and therefore he is an Assistant Chief.

The BOS questioned how he was appointed as a Deputy Chief and wears an Assistant Chief's badge.

Mr. Tanous requested that an organizational chart be submitted for the department.

Chief recommended that the Acting Fire Captains position be retained but that he is recommending that it remain an acting position.

Mr. Pickard moved to re-appoint Robert Blanchard as Deputy Fire Chief. Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Chief Perkins told the BOS that the department is turning back approximately \$30,000 to the Town and identified that \$20,000 is from Gordon College and \$10,000 is from permits and fees.

The snow shoveling and flushing of fire hydrants was discussed. The Fire department is requesting that the fire hydrants be flushed and identified that the recent use of a hydrant caused serious damage to the truck due to rocks and silt.

#### Police

Ken Walsh told the BOS that he is recommending Laura Kristis as an Assistant for the Animal Control Officer. He said that Ms Kristis and the Animal Control Officer, Carol Larocque, have worked together before.

Chief Walsh identified that there is money in the Animal Control budget for the Assistant position.

He went on to tell the Selectmen that Auxiliary Police Officers cannot be paid but that a dual appointment would enable auxiliary officers who have completed specific training to ascend to Basic Reserve status.

#### Appointments

Mr. Pickard moved to appoint Carol Larocque as Animal Control Officer. Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Pickard moved to appoint Laura Kristis as Assistant Animal Control Officer. Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Pickard moved to appoint Ken Walsh Acting Police Chief from July 1, 2005 – August 31, 2005. Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Tanous will request an appointment of Chief on August 31, 2005.

Mr. Pickard moved to appoint Ken Walsh Acting Police Chief as a representative to the Emergency Center Operation Board effective July 1, 2005. Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

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Mr. Pickard moved to appoint Ken Walsh Acting Police Chief to the Town Hall/Police Station Building Committee effective July 1, 2005. Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Pickard moved to appoint Ken Walsh Acting Police Chief as Keeper of the Lock Up effective July 1, 2005. Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Pickard moved to appoint Brett Morong to the Capital Management Advisory Committee effective July 1, 2005. Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Uniforms

Ken Walsh told the BOS that the Wenham Police Relief Association wants to develop an Honor Guard and to design a uniform blouse to be paid for by the Association.

He described the blouse as heather gray with navy blue trim (navy pants). He noted that the patch for the dress uniform must be changed and will be tombstone design with navy/gray. He said that the shirt will be gray with navy piping. Acting Chief Walsh stated that the new uniforms will be used starting October 15, 2005 when the Police Department switches to long sleeve shirts.

He said that the department will start using the navy blue pant on July 1, 2005 and identified that these are half the price of the pants they have now and are not bloused.

He added that patrolmen wear a uniform shirt and that a polo shirt with badge is worn on details.

Mr. Pickard moved to endorse the uniform change as requested on June 10, 2005 to take place on the timeline in the memorandum. Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Chelgren identified that the BOS had in their possession a draft timeline for a Special Town Meeting for review.

Mr. Weaver and Mr. Darling were present for this discussion.

Mr. Chelgren identified that the BOS meets next on July 12, 2005.

The BOS considered other Town business that may be ready to be brought forth at Town Meeting. After a brief discussion the BOS agreed on a Tuesday meeting and a Thursday vote.

Mr. Darling informed the BOS that he will be requesting a meeting between the BC and BOS in early July to present their recommendation.

9:36 PM

Mr. Hersee moved to adjourn and the vote was unanimous.